

the fund to the families of the deceased victims and to the injured students. It is the families' and university's desire that these funds be exempted from Federal income tax, and this measure takes the entirely appropriate step of providing this exemption.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to obtain approval of this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DR. OTTO VON
HABSBURG ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on November 20, Dr. Otto von Habsburg—a man of courage and intellect and a great friend of the United States—will celebrate his 95th birthday. I extend to him on this occasion my very warmest greetings. Although he and I come from the most different Central European backgrounds imaginable, we have become friends over the years and I hold him in the highest regard.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is in every way an extraordinary human being, was born in 1912 into one of Europe's oldest and most distinguished royal families. He is the eldest son of Emperor Charles, the last Emperor of Austria and the last King of Hungary and Bohemia, and his wife, Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma. Although he has renounced all claims to the Austrian throne, Dr. von Habsburg retains the hereditary titles of Archduke and Crown Prince of Austria and Crown Prince of Hungary and Bohemia.

Madam Speaker, I met Otto von Habsburg shortly after I was elected a Member of the Congress a quarter century ago. At that time, I was the chairman of the U.S. delegation which met twice a year with a delegation of the European Parliament. At the time Otto was a representative of Germany to the European Parliament, and the Ambassador of Austria brought him to meet me in my office in the Longworth Building. We both felt an immediate bond, and have maintained a cordial relationship ever since.

We have met on numerous occasions in Brussels and Strasbourg, and we have met frequently here in the United States when he has visited our country. His son Gyorgy was married in Budapest in 1997, and my wife Annette and I attended their wedding in the Basilica of St. Stephen. Just a few years ago on his last visit to the United States, I was pleased to welcome and pay tribute to Dr. von Habsburg at a special meeting here in the United States Capitol.

Madam Speaker, although he became Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia when he was just 4 years old when his father became Emperor, and he continues to hold a number of impressive noble titles, what truly distinguishes Otto von Habsburg is not who he was at birth, but who he became in the course of his long and distinguished life.

After growing up as an exile in Switzerland and Spain, the young Otto studied for his Ph.D. in political science at Belgium's famous Catholic University of Louvain. As an astute and principled conservative, he understood early on the true nature of the Nazi movement and became its staunch opponent.

While doing research in Berlin in the early 1930s for his Ph.D. dissertation, Dr. von Habsburg was invited on two separate occasions to meet with Adolf Hitler, who for political reasons, sought to create the appearance of an association between himself and the heir to the Austrian and Hungarian thrones.

"I had the great advantage of having already read Mein Kampf from start to finish and knew what his plans were," Dr. von Habsburg later recalled. "All of this only reinforced my refusal to meet him. On the other hand, it would have been an interesting experience. In fact, this was the only interesting conversation I ever avoided in my life."

In the immediate aftermath of the fall of France to the Nazi armies, Dr. von Habsburg worked with Aristide de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, to secure travel papers for an estimated 20,000 Jews and others liable to be persecuted by the Nazis. For his trouble, he was sentenced to death by the Nazis. Fortunately, it was in absentia—Dr. von Habsburg had escaped from Europe in the nick of time and spent the war years here in the United States.

After the war, he returned to Europe, where he became a leader of the Paneuropean Union, served for 20 years as a member of the European Parliament and emerged as a champion of human rights. He was famous for, among many other things, ensuring that there was always an empty chair inside the Parliament building as a symbol of the European nations that were dominated at that time by totalitarian and illiberal ideologies.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is the author of 27 books in 7 languages, is a passionate supporter of freedom and liberty and an unblinking opponent of racism and totalitarianism. I salute him as he celebrates his 95th birthday, and I thank him for all the good that he has done in this world.

TRIBUTE TO BHAVANI K.D.
KAKANI FOR RECEIVING THE 2007
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mrs. Bhavani Kakani of Huntsville, Alabama, for receiving the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a person in the Huntsville community who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

Mrs. Kakani is a distinguished community advocate and civic volunteer who has given countless hours to numerous community and state-wide organizations and boards. In these roles, she has led efforts to raise funds and awareness for health programs across our State, including ending child abuse and neglect, and inspiring self-worth and confidence in young women. In addition, I have worked directly with Mrs. Kakani through her many years of service on the National Children's Advocacy Center's board of directors.

Mrs. Kakani is the cofounder and president of the AshaKiran, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, empathizing, and empowering foreign born immigrants. Since its

founding, AshaKiran has provided multilingual, multicultural, and crisis referral services to numerous individuals in North Alabama.

Madam Speaker, in addition to her remarkable advocacy across the community, she has worked with the Intergraph Corporation, as a registered cytologist technician, and office manager for her husband's medical practice. Mrs. Kakani and her husband, Dr. Rao Kakani, have also raised three children.

Madam Speaker, Bhavani Kakani's leadership and her strong dedication to the community should serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Mrs. Kakani for being named the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award Winner.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
KLURFELD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Klurfeld, vice president and editorial page editor of Newsday, who last week retired after nearly 40 years of outstanding and tireless work at the paper.

James Klurfeld was born in 1945 in New York City and is a 1963 graduate of Syosset High School. His illustrious career at Newsday began in 1968, just one year after he graduated from Syracuse University.

Klurfeld's first job at Newsday was as a local reporter, where he covered various news stories on Long Island. But he quickly rose through the ranks at the paper, where his extraordinary reporting propelled him into several key positions. He led Newsday's Albany bureau, and he served as the newspaper's Washington bureau chief between 1980 and 1986. After his exceptional leadership during these stints, Klurfeld was appointed editor of the editorial pages in December 1987.

James Klurfeld's constant pursuit of journalistic excellence has earned him numerous honors and recognitions. He was a member of the Newsday investigative team that won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, as well as the New York State Publisher's Association and Deadline Club award in the same category. The awards were for a 3-year effort that disclosed political corruption in several townships on Long Island. He also won the Sigma Delta Chi National Reporting Award with other members of the Washington bureau in 1982, and he was the recipient of the 1988 American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award for editorials on the Iran-Contra hearings. In addition, the staff of Newsday's editorial and viewpoints pages won several major awards under his leadership. These included everything from brilliantly written editorials to exceptionally creative cartoons.

Over the years, Klurfeld has become incredibly knowledgeable about local and national issues and is an expert on foreign affairs matters, most notably through his extensive travels around the globe and from his work with the Council on Foreign Relations. To this extent, he has provided Newsday readers with